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United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

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MEMORANDUM

RELEASED IN FULL

July 19, 1994

TO: AF-Mr. Moose
THROUGH: AF-Mr. Brynn *eb*
FROM: AF/C-David Rawson *DR*
SUBJECT: Equipping Contingents for UNAMIR

In recent days we have launched several initiatives to spur equipment contributors to UNAMIR. Two weeks ago, a circular demarche to all potential troop contributors (TAB A) asked them to adopt a battalion and quickly equip it for deployment in Rwanda. We followed that with consultations at the EU Africa Working Group meetings in Brussels. Well prepared by our embassies' demarches in respective capitals (and by the interventions of the French representative who used our talking points), the EU participants said all the right things. They would ask headquarters to search collective hearts and redouble efforts in order to effectively equip UNAMIR. They saw the idea of "god-fathering" a battalion as a useful approach to that end.

When a check at some capitals and USUN showed no forward motion, we prepared a cable to Paris asking the French to consider leaving their equipment and a second demarche (TAB B) targeted at those countries that could potentially move quickly on equipment contributions. We believe that additional political arm twisting may be required to get high-level commitment to the cumbersome process of engaging the UN in equipment procurement. Under Secretary Tarnoff is prepared to convoke Ambassadors and reluctant contributors once he knows the results of our latest demarche, couched as a direct appeal from Acting Secretary Talbott. This is the tally as we see it:

Germany. Embassy Bonn notes that the Foreign Ministry's Africa Directorate has been trying for months to get trucks for Liberia. Similar bureaucratic inertia will delay procurement for Rwanda. Only a letter from Christopher to Kinkel would, in the Embassy's view, break through this logjam.

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REVIEW AUTHORITY: JOHN L MILLS
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Belgium. The Belgians are considering APC's. A ministerial deliberation on this subject last Friday ended without decision. A call from you to Willems might push along a Belgian commitment to provide the range of equipment required to get another battalion on the ground. ✓

France. We have sent out a special demarche to Paris asking France to leave its equipment to an African battalion of its choice. We also asked RPF to reconsider its attitude toward the Senegalese. The crisis in France's secure zone overtook these initiatives. Should the situation stabilize at all for "Operation Turquoise," you should call de la Sabliere. If the French are leaning toward equipping a contingent, a Christopher-Juppe phone call might clinch it. W

United Kingdom. We were not able to get Undersecretary Goodenough to commit more than the 50 trucks which Great Britain offered a month ago to the UN. My talks with the British rep in Brussels were similarly unproductive. The British somehow believe they have been generous with their offer of moth-balled transport. The UN was to review this offer last week.

South Africa: Our Embassy believes that a high-level approach asking the South Africans to "godfather" Zimbabwe's contingent would be counter-productive given South Africa's significant involvement in Angola and Mozambique and the growing criticism within South Africa of the government's focus on foreign affairs. About the best we can hope for is to get closure on South Africa's offer of APC's. South Africans are already airlifting food to Dar es Salaam for onward shipment within the region. ✓

Netherlands. Our Embassy informs us that the Dutch had a ministerial meeting last Friday at which the Minister of Defense presented a list of available materiel. Minister of Cooperation Jan Pronk has left for survey mission to eastern Zaire and will report back to Ministerial Council on July 22. ✓ Pronk apparently really wants to get the Dutch involved and carries increasing weight within the coalition government. Our Embassy is assessing whether a high-level push from this end would be helpful.

Israel. An idea gaining currency is that Israeli equipment and airlift might be effectively matched with the deployment needs of the Ethiopian battalion. This has won informal support within the Department and at the UN; our demarche will test this possibility in Israel. The Ethiopians may be the next ready to deploy after the Ghanaians and we need to find a supplier who can move quickly in meeting their equipment requirements. ✓

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Russia. The Russians have expressed general willingness to provide lift but have yet to offer equipment. We think they have equipment to spare and might welcome the opportunity to earn some hard currency by leasing or selling it to the UN. Along with addressing the second demarche to them, we have prepared points for you to raise this with them in the July 25 ✓ bilaterals.

Conclusion. Despite our considered effort, we have not been able to scare up any new major equipment suppliers. Our demarche to select countries may spotlight new possibilities which high-level targeting can bring down. We recommend that you call Willems and de la Sabliere on equipment issues after this demarche is delivered. The utility of other high-level contacts will depend on host government reactions to this demarche.

Attachments:

1. TAB A: 94 State 177616
2. TAB B: Draft Cable

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SECA 3759; 7-3139
Clearance: AF/C-RFendrick *RF*
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